

effort is therefore the supreme task of those concerned in social progress at the present time. The growth has hitherto been mainly automatic. We have to understand it, grasp it, and turn it to the still greater good of mankind. Science having made the modern world, with all its strength and its weaknesses, let men of science inspire a social will into the whole community, to use this master-instrument for its highest end, the salvation and elevation of the humanity to which it belongs.

F. S. MARVIN.

### Phantasms of the Living.

*Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research.*  
Vol. 33, Part 86, October. (London: F. Edwards;  
Glasgow: MacLehose, Jackson and Co., 1922.)  
16s. 6d. net.

A BOOK entitled "Phantasms of the Living," by Edmund Gurney, F. W. H. Myers, and Frank Podmore, was published in 1886. Under this title were included all experiences where there was reason to suppose that the mind of one living person had affected the mind of another otherwise than through the recognised channels of sense. The chief aim of this book was to produce a cumulative quasi-statistical proof of telepathy.

In the thirty-six years which have elapsed since the publication of this book the Society for Psychical Research has received and published in its *Journal* many accounts of happenings similar to those recorded by Gurney, and in its *Proceedings* of October last Mrs. Henry Sidgwick has submitted the best of these cases to a careful examination and analysis.

While Gurney and his collaborators were chiefly concerned to prove telepathy to be a fact of Nature, Mrs. Sidgwick thinks we have arrived at a stage when, if our knowledge of telepathy is to grow, we must seek light on its process and the conditions under which evidence of it can be obtained. She says: "We may now, for the sake of argument at least, assume that Gurney's book has accomplished its object, and that telepathy is proved, and starting from that point may devote ourselves primarily to seeking for light on the occasions and mode of its operation." Mrs. Sidgwick does not mean to imply that telepathy is yet accepted by the scientific world; but she thinks something more than the mere piling up of facts is required, and that "our facts will be the more readily accepted, the more we can compare them, and, provisionally assuming telepathy, show when and how it occurs."

Many of the best cases received by the Society during the past thirty-six years have already been published in various works on psychical research, and fifty-four have appeared in the *Proceedings* of the

Society for Psychical Research. All these, being therefore already before the public, are excluded from this collection. The cases included have appeared only in the *Journal* of the Society, which is printed for private circulation among members. The value of the present collection is considerably diminished by the exclusion of so many cases which were of course selected for earlier publication, because they were regarded as being specially important or interesting. Even without these, however, we have here some two hundred cases, many of which are important as affording evidence that telepathy does occur, and all of which help to throw some light on the occasions and mode of its operations.

The broad lines of classification adopted in the description of telepathic phenomena may be gathered from the headings of the four chapters into which Mrs. Sidgwick's volume is divided: (1) Experimental and semi-experimental cases; (2) Spontaneous cases in which the percipient's impression is not externalised; (3) Spontaneous cases in which the percipient's impression is externalised as a waking hallucination; also dreams of the same character; (4) Collective and reciprocal cases without evidence of any agency external to the percipient.

In all modern records of telepathic experiences the person whose mind receives the impression is called the percipient, and the person from whose mind the impression comes is called the agent; but it would appear from the evidence that the percipient is very often the "active" party, and that the so-called agent plays a purely passive part. This is seen in the semi-experimental cases in which a percipient is trying to get an impression from another person who is quite unaware that any such attempt is being made. In experimental cases, properly so-called, the agent is deliberately trying to impress telepathically a particular percipient, and that percipient is deliberately trying to receive an impression. It is doubtful, however, what part, if any, the concentrated effort of the agent plays in the success of such experiments.

The experimental and semi-experimental cases recorded in this collection can scarcely be regarded as representative of the group because of the number excluded, owing to their having been already published; but even had these been included there would still have been occasion for Mrs. Sidgwick's comment that "more experiments carefully conducted and well recorded are greatly needed."

Of spontaneous cases in which the percipient's impression is not externalised as a hallucination, Mrs. Sidgwick says: "As a whole the class is not a strong one as evidence of telepathy," because the triviality or vagueness of the impression in many cases makes

tricks of memory very likely to occur. Of more importance as providing evidence of the occurrence of telepathy are the spontaneous cases in which the percipient's impression is externalised as a waking hallucination. The first case recorded under this heading (p. 152) is one of the most striking in the whole collection. It is one of the many cases of "death coincidences" which form an important part of the evidence for telepathy. (Apparitions or other hallucinatory experiences occurring within twelve hours of the death, before or after it, are classed as phantasms of the living.) The apparition in this case was that of an officer of the Royal Air Force, who was killed in a flying accident on December 7, 1918, and the percipient was a fellow-officer who spoke of his experience to another person before it was realised that it was not the living man who had appeared.

Another interesting case in this section is a dream experience, first recorded in the *Times* of July 21, 1904, by Mr. Rider Haggard, the percipient (p. 219). The dream was to the effect that a favourite retriever dog was lying on its side among brushwood, or rough growth of some sort, by water. The recorder says: "In my vision the dog was trying to speak to me in words, and, failing, transmitted to my mind in an undefined fashion the knowledge that he was dying." Investigation showed that the dog had been killed by a passing train, and had fallen into a stream where reeds grew, at or about the time of the dream experience. The case is well authenticated, and all the circumstances point to the improbability that "mere coincidence" is the true explanation. Another striking case is one reported by Sir George Beilby (p. 243), in which a percipient had a visual hallucination of her brother in Australia at a time when he had fallen into unconsciousness which lasted until his death some days later.

"Collective and reciprocal cases" are dealt with by Mrs. Sidgwick in her final chapter. These are cases in which "two or more persons have at the same time spontaneous psychical experiences—either hallucinations or dreams—which seem to be related to one another, but where no evidence of any agency outside the two percipients exists." When the percipients were in the same room we must consider the possibility that one percipient may have influenced the other through the senses (suggestion), but where the percipients were in different rooms or in different houses, the relation of the one hallucinatory or dream experience to the other can scarcely be accounted for in this way. Here either chance or telepathy must be invoked.

In concluding her examination of this collection of phantasms of the living, Mrs. Sidgwick describes two cases of reciprocal dreams, in both of which the

dreamers were in separate houses, and in both of which the reciprocity seems to have been very complete. Reciprocal cases are rare, and the small number recorded hitherto has raised some doubts as to the genuineness of the type; but Mrs. Sidgwick thinks they are very important as throwing light on the whole process of telepathic communication. She says: "I think the kind of union of minds, the thinking and feeling together, here shown, may be regarded as the type or norm of telepathic communication to which all other cases conform in varying degrees." This implies a merging together of minds, a "transfusion" of thought rather than a transmission or transference. We have the physical analogy of "contact" in place of "transmission-through-space."

It can scarcely be maintained that the cases here passed in review afford by themselves very strong proof of the occurrence of telepathy, but taken in conjunction with the body of evidence brought forward by Gurney, and the many well-attested cases published in the Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research and elsewhere, they help to strengthen the conviction, to which many competent observers have been forced, that these accounts of apparent action of mind upon mind in the absence of any physical medium of communication, bring to our notice some fact of Nature which students of science can no longer ignore.

The most obvious, and perhaps the most serious defect in the evidence for telepathy afforded by these cases is the long interval which so frequently elapsed between the experience and the recording of it. In only 11 out of 191 tabulated cases was the record made on the day of the experience, and 4 of these were semi-experimental cases, in which one might have supposed immediate record to have been a necessary part of the experiment. In 15 instances the record was made "next day." In most of the cases the interval extended for months or years, but all cases in which it exceeded five years are omitted from this collection.

After all that has been written about the importance of immediate record and attestation of any presumably super-normal experience, it is astonishing that those who are subject to such experiences should so often neglect this elementary rule. T. W. MITCHELL.

### The Synthetic Colour Industry.

*The Manufacture of Dyes.* By Dr. John Cannell Cain. Pp. ix + 274. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd., 1922.) 12s. 6d. net.

THE author of this treatise, which is published posthumously, was one of a small band of British chemists, who long before the war placed their